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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT 1. Planned Reduction of 1953 Tank Production
2. Soviet Mission Checking Armaments Production

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SOURCE

1. On 5 June 1953, the Czech Ministry of Heavy Industry issued a secret production directive which ordered a cut in the planned tank production for 1953 and the immediate institution of measures aimed at the conservation of strategic materials used by the Ministry. Three hundred tanks less than planned will be produced as a result of the directive.
2. On 10 June 1953, an 85-man Soviet mission arrived in Czechoslovakia to check and assess the production and delivery of military goods destined for the Soviet Union. The mission is based in Prague but inspection teams have been sent to all important ministries and major plants handling military production contracts.
3. Reportedly the Soviet mission is dissatisfied with the present Czech armaments production for the Soviet Union. The main criticisms of the mission concern the slowness of Czech deliveries and the poor quality of material delivered.
4. As a result of the initial reports of the Soviet mission, the Czech Ministry of Heavy Industry has ordered the plants supplying materiel for the Soviet Union to spare no efforts in fulfilling the Soviet contracts. The plants have been ordered to utilize the government reserves of important raw and semi-finished materials (Státní Reserva, "SR") for the military production for the Soviet Union.

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